

HOW TO GROW OLD

Ella Wheeler Wilcox Advances
Some Original Ideas

ON HUMANITY'S FRAILNESS

Potted Daughters and Witty Girls.
Ugly Old Women—Other Unfavorable Types of Women.

To grow old gracefully, one must commence when very young; it is like dancing, swimming, or speaking foreign tongues—a thing not to be perfectly acquired suddenly, or if begun too late.

I am constantly amused with a sort of sorrowful amusement at hearing the very just criticisms which many young people pass upon the disagreeable old persons whom they encounter; while their criticisms are well founded, they do not realize that they are every hour of the day forming and solidifying habits which shall eventually render them "disagreeable old people."

The pretty young girl, all bloom and sparkle, who relates in a musical voice the misdeanors of her schoolmates, and criticizes their conduct, dress and appearance is called, at worst, nothing more than "discriminating" or "very particular." I have heard such girls praised highly by blind parents or relatives for their comments upon their companions. Yet just same habit indulged in by some withered grandmother, whose face is hard and whose voice is harsh, wins universal disapproval.

Development of Crankiness.

Grandma is so hypercritical, so fault-finding so censorious; she has no sympathy with young people!" cries the becoming granddaughter, who, ten minutes later, will tear to tatters the character or costume of some companion with her sarcastic comments. She does not realize that every time she indulges this habit she takes one more step toward that hideous goal of disagreeable old age.

It is only through sympathy with others and through a lifelong habit of loving and thoughtful consideration for those about us that we can hope to avoid swamping the great army of "disagreeable old people."

The extremely well behaved young girl, who has never been tempted and who cannot understand how another could commit a folly, is certain to become a most censorious old woman. If she does not develop into a cruel, malicious tongue-sandalmonger it will be a wonder. Nothing is so easy as the descent from uncharitableness to malice. As a young girl she prides herself upon her love of morality and good behavior; all her friends speak of her as "such a strict girl" in her ideas. No one would think of appealing to her for sympathy or advice in an hour of temptation, if forced for her severity. As an old woman she is simply held in abhorrence, and her name becomes a neighborhood synonym for cruel judgment.

Criticism for Pleasure.

Criticism of our frail fellow beings is a vice which takes possession of us like a stimulant or a drug, once we encounter it. It may begin in our high moral standard and our hatred of sin, but once it becomes a habit, we indulge it not only by careful citizens, but the board of health is struggling hard to put the city in a perfect sanitary condition. Notices are being served to clean the back yards and make sewer connections wherever available. There's one important matter that should be attended to at once, our drinking water. Contaminated water taken into the system prepares a beautiful structure for cholera to flourish in all its glory. A complete protection has at last been found, an absolute preventive of anything impure being taken into the stomach with the water we drink. Germ-proof, cholera-proof, vegetable proof, in fact, proof against all impurities is the only remedy that we can trust this year. The honor has been awarded to Heyman Company, who seem to be getting all the valuable things out for domestic use. It's their wonderful new germ-proof filter; converts ordinary water into sparkling drops pure as the spring fountain in the virgin forest. There are three sizes, at \$5, \$10 and \$20 respectively. Can any one afford to forego one of these life saving machines when such prices are quoted?

sort of old woman that she was child and maiden, only, the human and joys of youth having faded away, the manly branch of wisdomness is more fully revealed.

There are more disagreeable old men than women in the world, because women, as a rule, are obliged to practice more self-sacrifice and unselfishness and patience in early life than men practice.

Men who have raised their households, wives, children and employees by a rod of fear rather than love during youth and middle age make very unpleasant old men. Mentally and physically incapacitated from inspiring fear, they are unable to inspire anything but hatred the pity which springs from scorn.

Unable to rule, which has been the source of their happiness in earlier years, they pass their old age in carpings, criticisms and fault finding of those who succeed them.

The children who have formerly obeyed them only through fear now ignore their wishes and fail to show them respect due to gray hair, a respect impossible to feel where there are no qualities to inspire it, but which good breeding and humanity ought to impose in seeming.

Respect for Old Age.

It is all very well to talk about the love and respect we owe our ancestors, but these are qualities which cannot be prompted by duty. If old people consider themselves absolutely invaluable, it is not in the power of their children or grandchildren to love them, but it is possible for descendants to treat them with kindness, consideration and patience. An old man who has lived a grasping, mercenary, selfish life cannot expect to be respected on account of his gray hairs, but out of self respect his children and relatives ought to show forbearance and kindness. The sons and daughters of such a man will be more the fact that their father is so captious and unlovable, while at the same time they indulge in habits and cultivate qualities in themselves which will lead them directly to the same goal in time. They forget that one does not grow old in a day—it takes a lifetime to produce old age.

The man who passes his youth in the pursuit of pleasure and his maturity in the pursuit of gold, ignoring the feelings and rights of others during both periods, cannot fail to become a most unpleasant old man.

It is only through sympathy with others and through a lifelong habit of loving and thoughtful consideration for those about us that we can hope to avoid swamping the great army of "disagreeable old people."

No matter how you may get along without these qualities in early life through brilliancy, power, beauty, position, you will be disliked and avoided, and poorly neglected in your old age if you do not possess them; they alone can offset the unpleasant and unattractive phases of old age, and unless they are cultivated in early life it will be almost impossible to acquire them when needed.

— ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

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I will sell my new residence on easy monthly payments. See before you decide on anything. Large reception hall, parlor, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bath rooms and den in white pine, natural wood. Walls and ceilings nicely decorated with Dixie. Furniture, light oak, maple, pine, etc. Good model furnace, stone foundation, floor wall, cement floor, hard wood soft water. Let me tell you, Chair and Table Co., Hastings, Mich.

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